

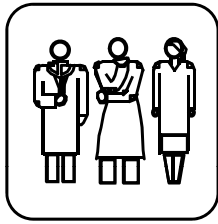
CONSORTIUM • PBRN

VA WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK

Supporting Practice and Research Collaboration

Spotlight on Women Cyberseminar Series

Funded by the VA HSR&D (Project# SDR 10-012)



**Center for the Study of
Healthcare Provider Behavior**

Center for Health
Care Evaluation



VA Women's Health Research Consortium

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UCLA School of Public Health

March 28, 2011



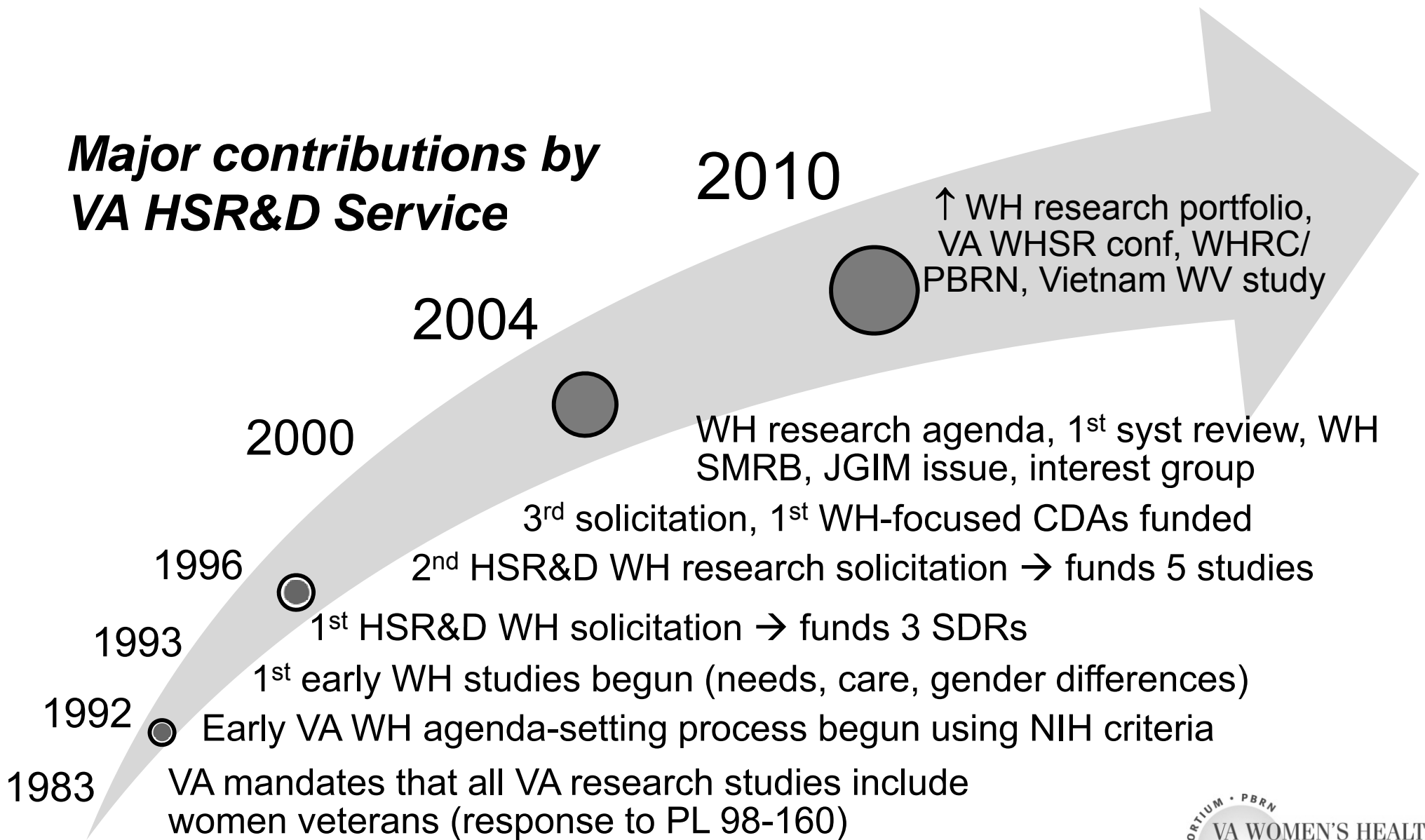
Veterans Health Administration
Research Development
Improving Veterans' Lives → www.research.va.gov

Background

- Many more women serving in military
- High numbers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan
- VA clinicians caring for twice the #s as a decade ago
- Increased demand for research to inform evidence-based practice and policy

Abbreviated History of VA Women's Health Research

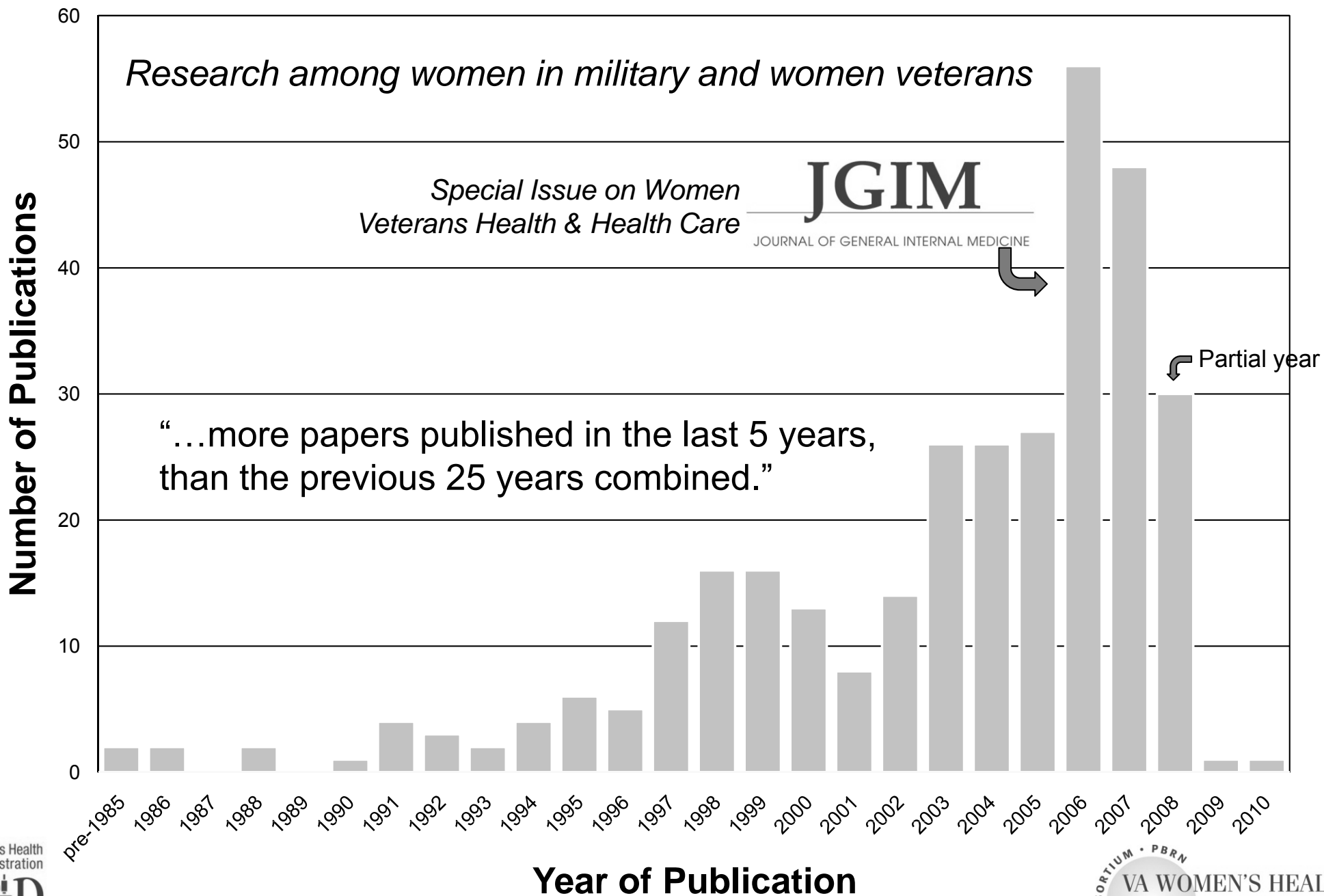
Major contributions by VA HSR&D Service



VA's Women's Health Research Agenda (2004): *Goals for Fostering Research*

- Address identified research priorities
- Build ORD capacity
 - Improved networking, collaborations, mentoring
 - www1.va.gov/resdev/programs/womens_health/
- Address methodologic limitations & other barriers
 - Women's Health scientific review enhanced
 - VA women's health & deployment health solicitations
- Increase visibility/awareness of VA WH research
 - JGIM Special Issue on VA Women's Health Care
 - Listserv, collaboration, mentorship, interest group

Women's Health Research Publications



Source: Bean-Mayberry, et al. Systematic review of women veterans' health research, 2004-2008. October 2010.

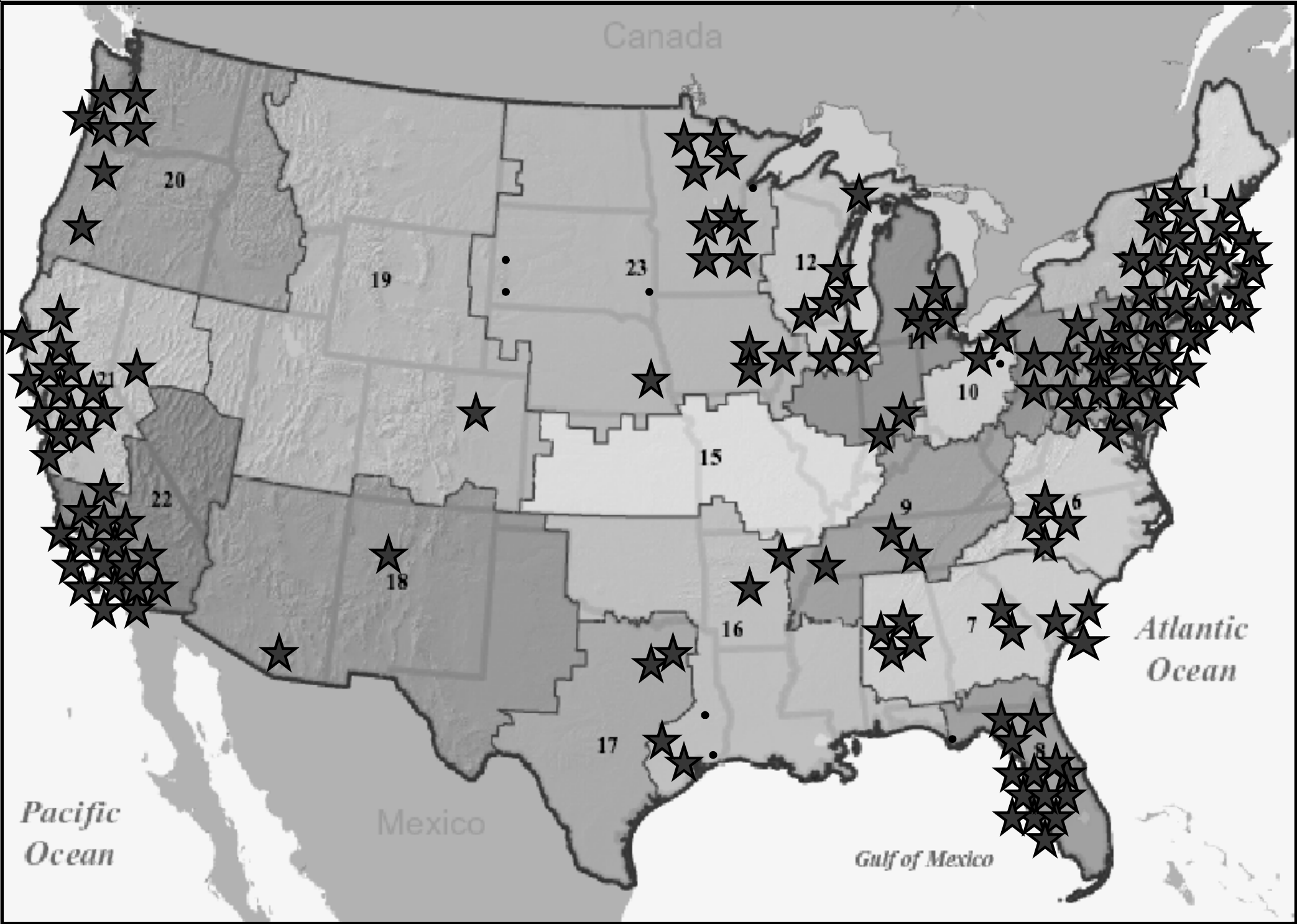
Number of VA Women's Health Researchers (1990s)



Growth in # of VA Women's Health Researchers (2004)



Substantial Growth in # of VA Women's Health Researchers (2010)



So we have the numbers of potential PIs...

- But most VA investigators exclude women from their studies
 - Too few, too hard to recruit
 - Can't recruit enough to look at by gender
 - Not really interested in gender differences
 - Don't understand their health care needs
 - Don't understand how they use VA care
 - Can't get VA women's research published

Researchers are from Mars, Managers are from Venus...

- “Why don’t researchers ever study the problems I need help with?”
- “Why don’t health care managers ever pay attention to my research?”



Researchers are from Mars, Managers are from Venus...

- “Why don’t researchers ever study the problems I need help with?”
- “Why don’t health care managers ever pay attention to my research?”



We’re never going to get over
the “quality chasm” this way

Research-Clinical Partnerships



- Passive handoff of research evidence
 - Doesn't work
 - “Delivering a dead mouse”
- Different perspectives, priorities and pressures
 - Researchers' timelines and expectations differ
 - Managers don't have luxury of wait-and-see

Need to Accelerate Impacts

- Researchers may not have enough training in clinical or HSR trials let alone implementation
 - Need training on how to get to interventions (design)
- Not enough information to adapt interventions to the circumstances of women veterans
 - Different experiences, patterns of use, comorbidities, health care needs, expectations, trust
 - Ex: TIDES (depression collaborative care)
 - Touches women who attend PC practices but not used in women's clinics OR adapted to address comorbid PTSD and/or MST
- Inclusion of women already required, so need to market to, educate broader research community

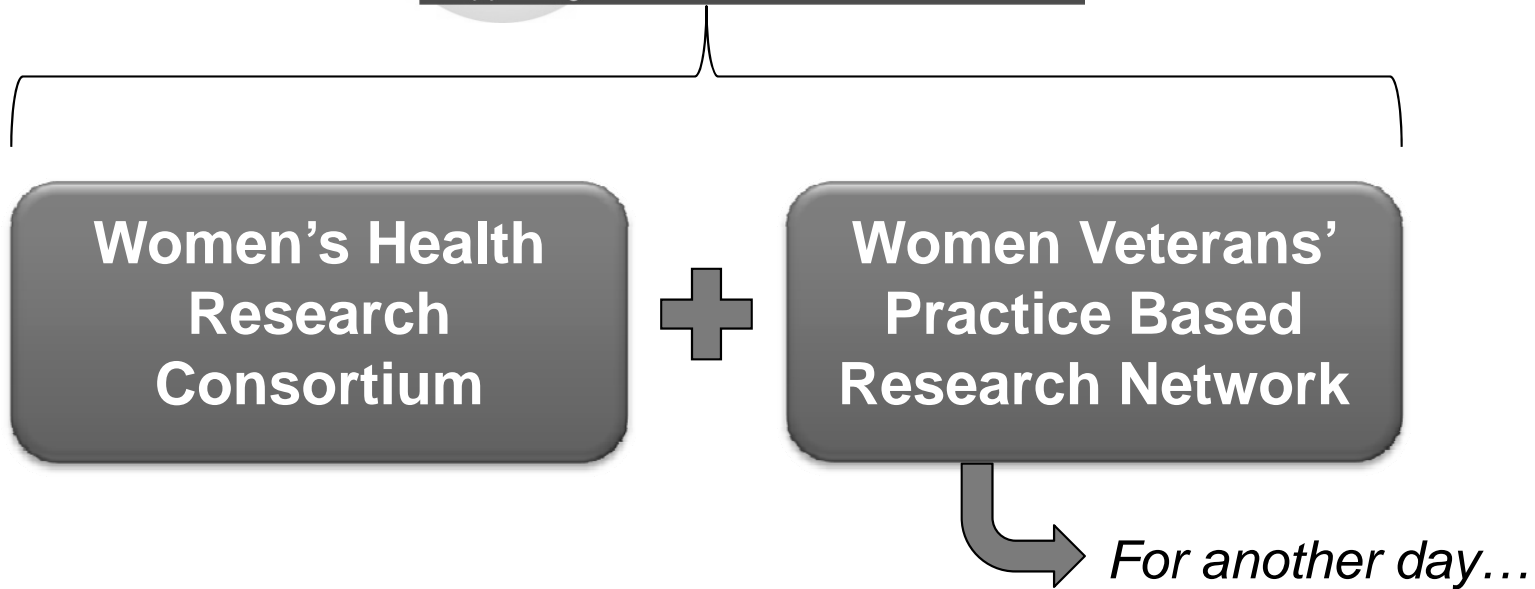
VA Women's Health Research Consortium Developed to Meet Needs

- Use research to help transform VA care
- Arm VA investigators with knowledge, skills and collaborations necessary to generate new scientific knowledge
 - Evidence-based care models, interventions, strategies for transforming VA care for women
- Help VA HSR&D meet its WH research performance measures

VA Women's Health Research Consortium Approaches

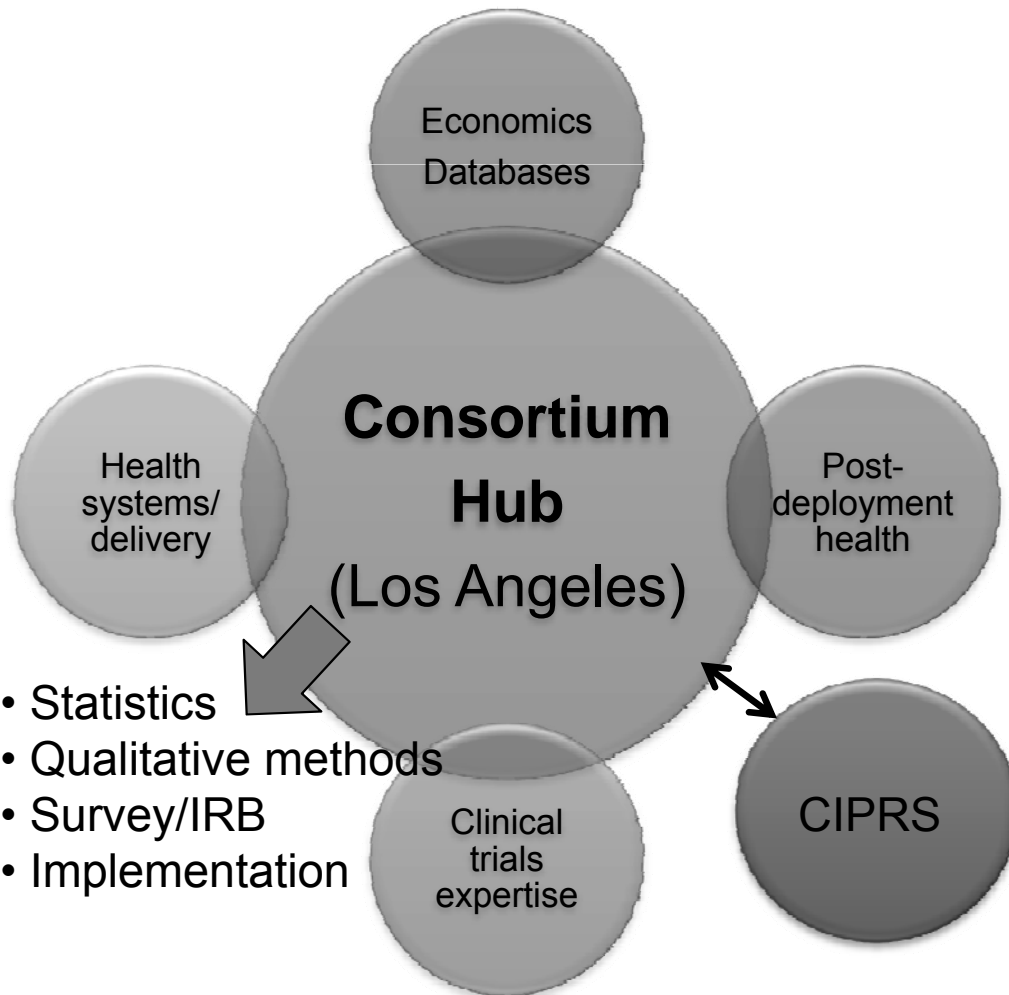
- Provide methodological and content-related education/training (e.g., cyberseminars)
- Build capabilities and collaboration
 - Technical consultation support
 - Mentorship, communities of practice
- Accelerate dissemination and implementation of research into practice

Consortium Part of Larger *VA Women's Health Research Network*

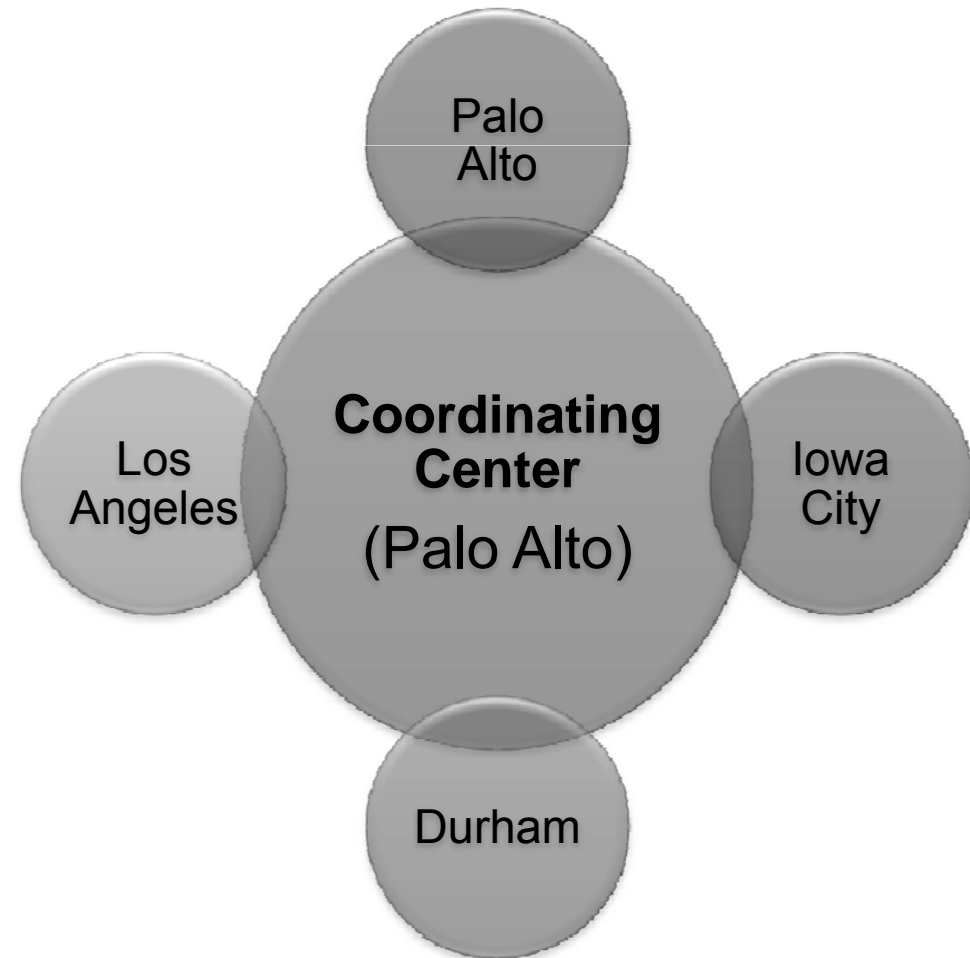


VA Women's Health Research Network

Women's Health Research Consortium



Practice Based Research Network



Target Audiences

VACO, VISNs, VAMCs



VA WH researchers

- Interventions
- Consultation
- Mentorship

Other VA established researchers

- Educate basics
- Connect
- Market PBRN

VA WH and other clinicians

- QI training
- Connect
- Collaboration

VA Women's Health Research Consortium

Research Experience

Consortium Activities

>150 VA Women's Health Research Interest Group & Listserv Members

High

Medium

Low



- Intervention design and theory
- Multisite/clinical trial design
- QI/implementation research
- Direct technical consultation/support
- Identification of collaborators/expertise
- Scientific review/feedback
- Mentorship/partnering processes
- Skill building/training/education
- Career development guidance

General HSR&D Investigators Capable of Adding Women Vets OR Generating New Women's-Focused Research Proposals



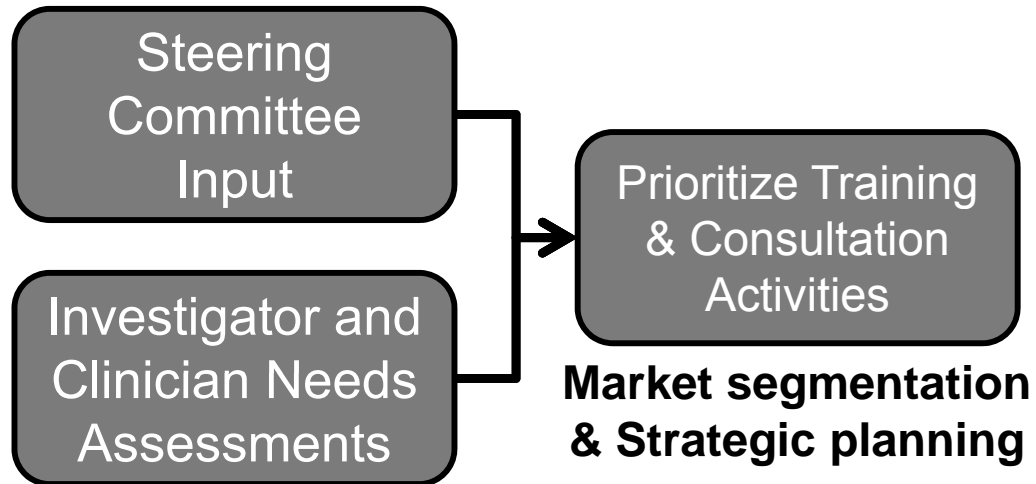
- Education on women veterans' issues
- Direct technical consultation/support
- Link to collaborators/content expertise
- Gender-specific adaptations to interventions
- Market PBRN capabilities

VA Clinicians (e.g., Women's Health, Primary Care, Subspecialty Care, Acute Care, Long Term Care)
(BOTTOM-UP PBRN QI RESEARCH)

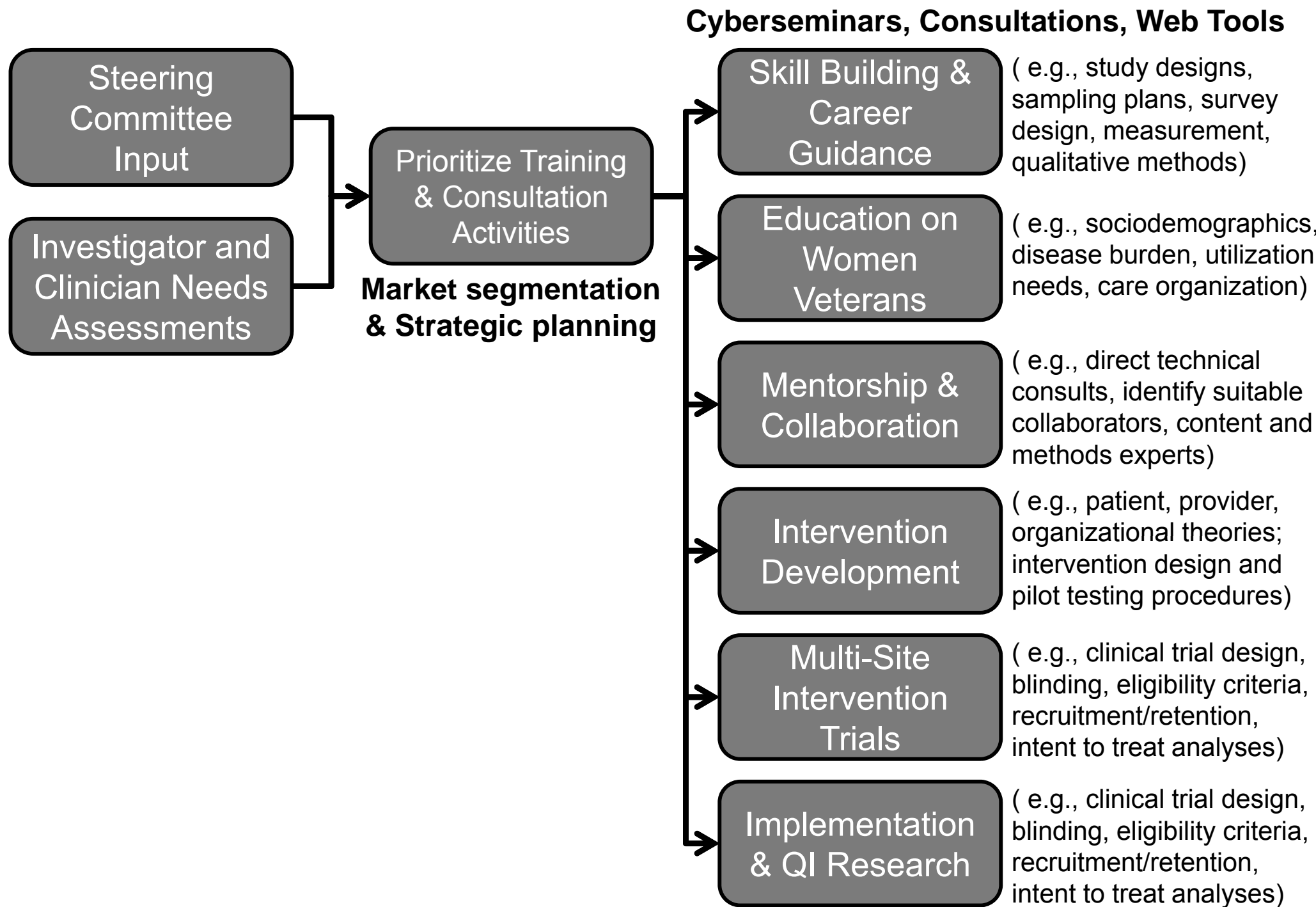


- Education on women veterans' issues
- Highlight quality gaps and opportunities
- Create collaborative networks on key topics
- Evaluate frontline clinician perspectives
- Direct and indirect technical consultation
- Basic training on PBRN capabilities for QI

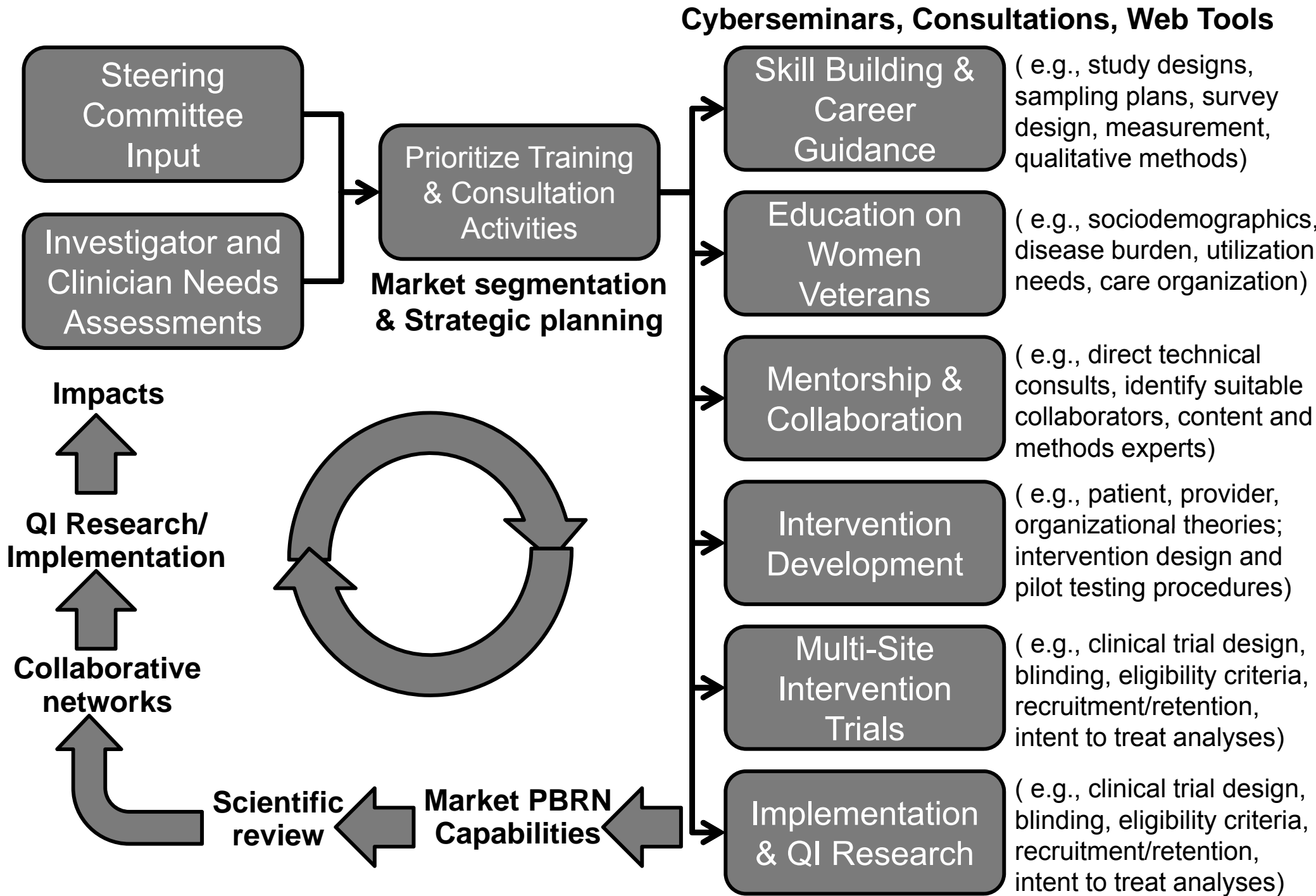
VA Women's Health Research Consortium



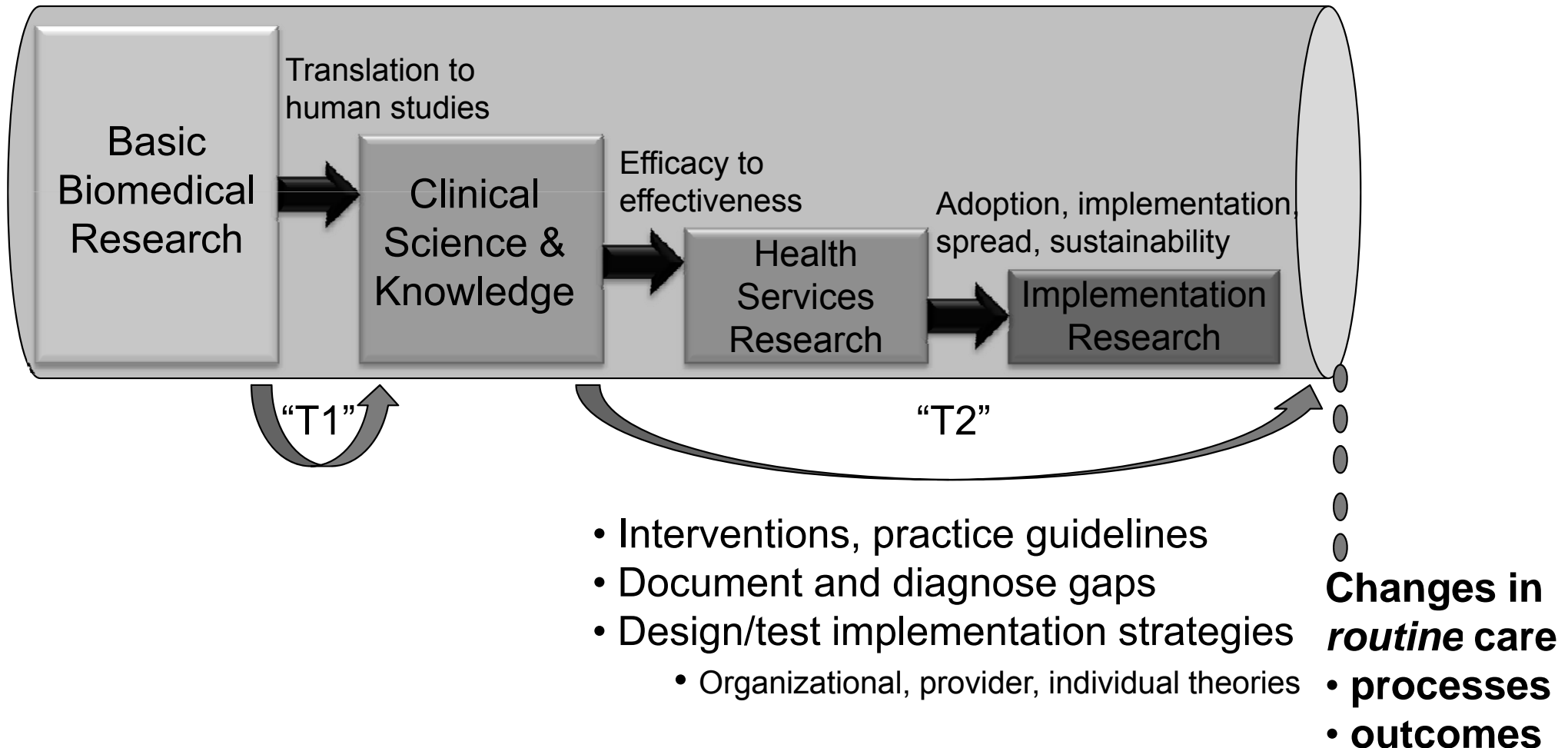
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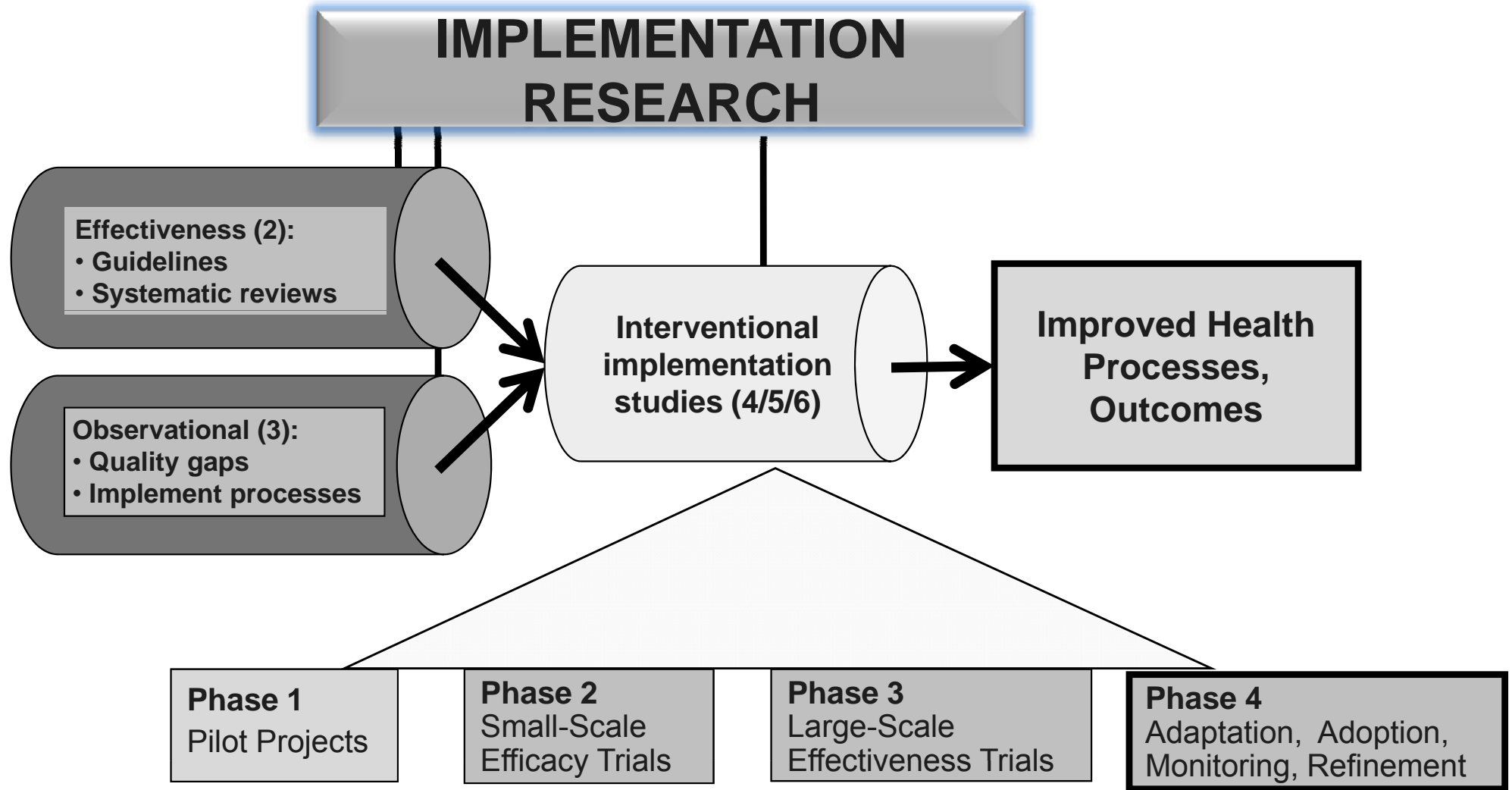
VA Women's Health Research Consortium



Research-to-Practice “Pipeline”



Research-Implementation Pipeline



➔ Most VA women's health research is at QUERI steps 2, 3 and 4 (pilot interventions) w/notable exceptions (PTSD, gender sensitivity)

VA Women's Health Research Education/Training

- *Spotlight on Women's Health* cyberseminars
 - Mapping to different target audiences
 - Methodology seminars
 - Advanced methodology seminars
 - Research highlight seminars
 - Clinical quality improvement research seminars
 - Mapping to needs assessment results
- Other venues for in-person training
 - Workshops/precourses at HSR&D, SGIM, AcademyHealth, QUERI, others

VA Women's Health Research Cyberseminars *To Date*



VA Patient Centered Medical Homes and Patient Centered Care for Women Veterans

- Melissa McNeil, MD, MPH (Pittsburgh VA, Univ Pittsburgh)
- Sarah Scholle, DrPH (Nat'l Comm for Quality Assurance)

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Improving Care for Women Veterans: Moving to Interventions and Implementation

- Lori Bastian, MD, MPH (Durham VA, Duke University)
- Susan Frayne, MD, MPH (VA Palo Alto, Stanford Univ)
- Linda Lipson, MA (VA HSR&D Service)
- Ciaran Phibbs, PhD (VA Palo Alto, HERC, Stanford University)
- Elizabeth Yano, PhD (VA Greater Los Angeles, UCLA)

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Systematic Literature Review: Women Veterans Research

- Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MHS (VA Greater Los Angeles, UCLA)
- Isomi Miake-Lye, BA (VA Greater Los Angeles)

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VA Women's Health Research Cyberseminars *To Date*



Findings from the National Survey of Women Veterans

- Donna L. Washington, MD, MPH (VA Greater Los Angeles, UCLA)
- Laura Herrera, MD (WVHSHG Discussant)

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Institute of Medicine's Report on Women's Health: A Book Review

- Robert Wallace, PhD (IoM Board on Select Populations, University of Iowa City)
- Elizabeth Yano, PhD (WHRN Discussant)

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Women's Health Evaluation Initiative: A Research-Clinical Operations Partnership

- Susan Frayne, MD, MPH (VA Palo Alto, Stanford Univ)
- Patricia Hayes, PhD, (WVHSHG Discussant)

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VA Women's Health Research Needs Assessment Results

- Top methodological training needs*
 - Implementation research
 - Statistical methods for evaluating gender differences
 - Influence of organizational factors on quality or impact of health system redesign on care
 - Intervention design
 - Using administrative data
 - Sampling strategies

*Over 50% of respondents rating extremely helpful

VA Women's Health Research Needs Assessment Results

- Top areas researchers want to learn more about*
 - Quality of care for women veterans
 - Access to care for women veterans
 - Women veterans' mental health
 - Primary care for women veterans
 - Post deployment health
 - Intimate partner violence for women veterans
 - Military sexual trauma

VA Women's Health Research Needs Assessment Results

- Barriers to conducting VA women's health research*
 - Difficulty obtaining funding
 - Insufficient protected time for research
 - Difficulty accessing female research subjects
 - Insufficient access to statistical programmers
 - Difficulty identifying potential collaborators
 - Lack of familiarity with national VA women's health policy issues

VA Women's Health Research Mentorship Program

- Outreach & recruitment of mentors
- Identification of “mentees”
- Identifying sources of support for “mentees”
 - VA Women's Health Fellowship Program
 - VA HSR&D Career Development Awards
 - VA/NIMH Implementation Research Fellowships
 - NIH BRCH and Other K-Type Awards
 - RWJ Clinical Scholars & Generalist Faculty Scholars

VA Women's Health Research Technical Consultation

- Build communities of practice
 - Key topical areas (e.g., access, OEF/OIF)
 - Will be launching regular conference calls
 - Invitations based on interests (registration)
- Continual email consults/troubleshooting
- Group and one-on-one consultations
 - Focused on research development
 - Scientific review preparatory to proposal submission

VA Women's Health Research

Sample Technical Consultation Areas

- Study design, sampling strategies (including how to achieve adequate #s of women veterans)
- Survey design/development, IRB issues
- Large database and cost analyses
- Qualitative methods (focus groups, semi-structured interviews) and analysis
- Statistical analysis (and power calculations)
- Implementation science and research

VA Women's Health Research Needs Assessment Results

- Top resources or services requested*
 - Brief newsletter (conferences, funding opportunities, VA policy initiatives, research events)
 - Consultation/technical assistance in developing VA WH research grant proposals
 - Support for multi-site research (IRB, local HR, etc)
 - Help in developing relationships with local clinicians/leaders for multi-site research
 - Help identifying collaborators

VA Women's Health Research Dissemination

- VA Women's Health Services Research
Field-based Meeting (July 2010)
 - Virtually every VACO Office and major group
 - Reps from DoD, DHHS (NIH, NIMH, AHRQ), DOL, IOM, NCQA, SWHR, Rand, SVAC/HVAC, VSOs
 - >75 oral and poster presentations*

HSR&D Field-Based Research Meeting: *Perceived Value*

- Networking w/potential collaborators (96%)*
- Valued mix of VA and non-VA (99%)
- Helped with professional development (96%)
- Broadened VA women's HSR knowledge (100%)
- Importance of research-clinical partnerships (98%)
- Understand strategic/info needs of VACO (87%)
- Research methods plan to use in future (75%)
- Data sources plan to use in future (80%)

HSR&D Field-Based Research Meeting: *Perceived Value*

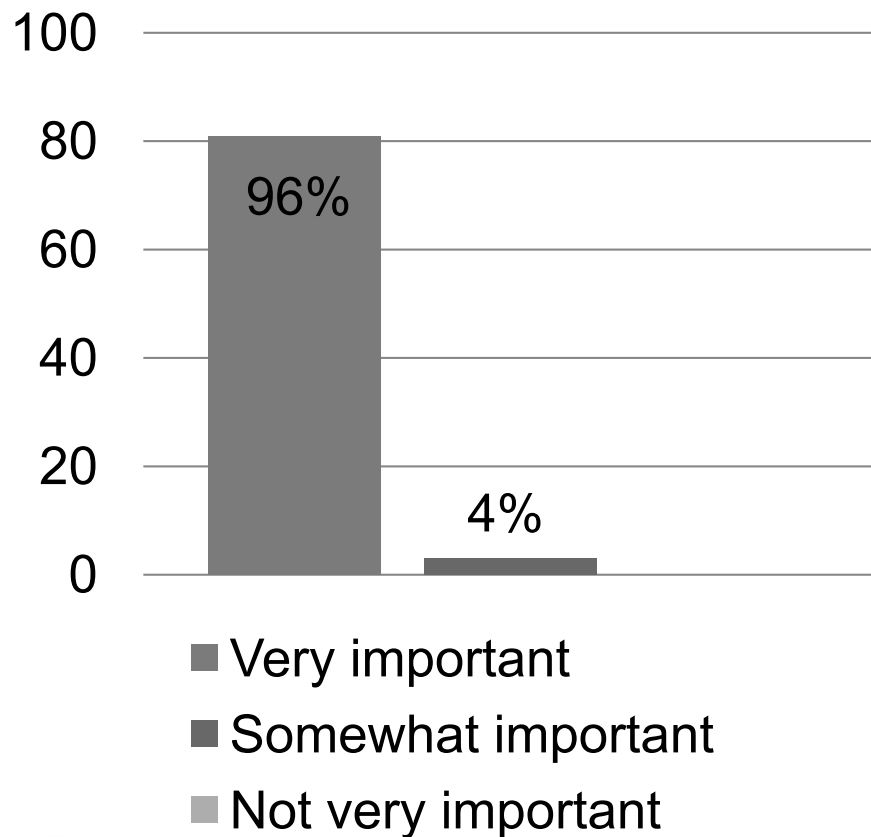
- Developed ideas for new WH research (95%)
- Positive impact on L(pursuing WHSR) (89%)
- Helped me identify possible mentors (91% of 56)
- Info will help me move to int'ns/implem (79%)
- Conference compared favorably with others (97%)
- Appreciated efforts to reward/recognize (99%)
- Overall conference was worthwhile (99%)
- Want regular updates on WHSR progress (98%)

HSR&D Field-Based Research Meeting: *Future Interests*

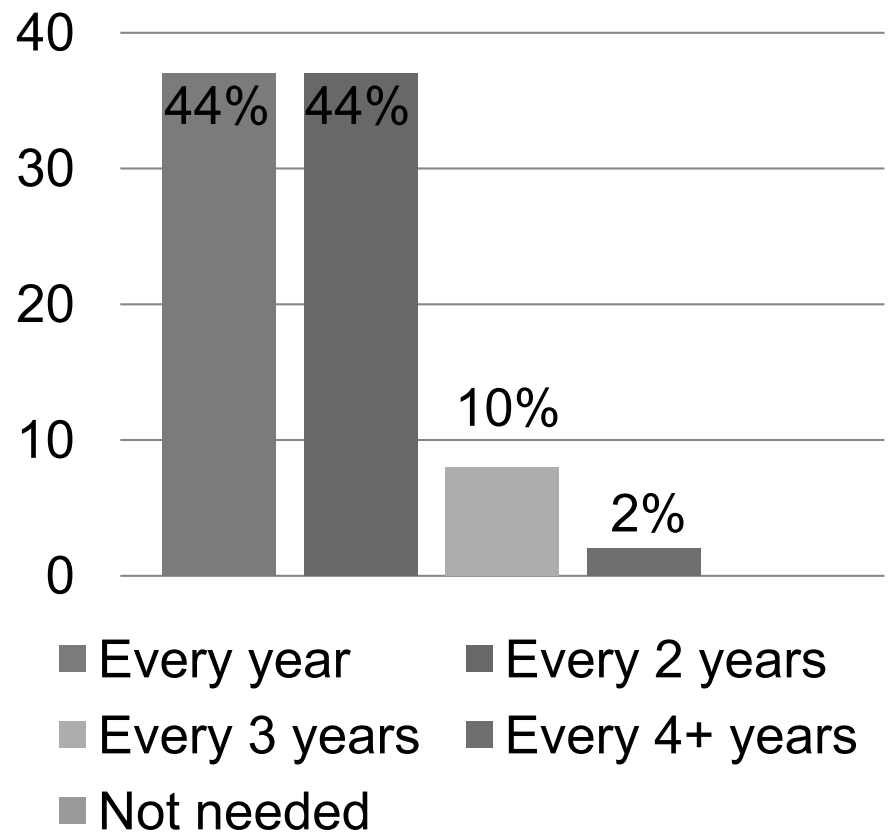
- Majority felt balance of topics just right but if anything wanted even more on:
 - Learning about VA leadership needs, priorities
 - Learning about implementing research into practice and policy
 - Time spent on networking, fostering collaboration
 - Overall conference duration

HSR&D Field-Based Research Meeting: *Perceived Value of Future Meetings*

Importance of Future Meeting



About how often should one be convened?



VA Women's Health Research Dissemination (cont'd)

- Call for Papers in Women's Health Issues
 - Manuscripts were due Nov 15th, 2010
 - Final set of manuscripts under revision/review
- Technical reports on methods, procedures
- Content for ORD Women's Health website
- VA Intranet Sharepoint website
 - Consider social networking site (e.g., Facebook)
- Call for Papers in JGIM Supplement (2013)

For more information...

- Elizabeth (Becky) Yano, PhD, MSPH
 - Consortium PI elizabeth.yano@va.gov
- Ruth Klap, PhD
 - Consortium Program Manager ruth.klap@va.gov

